United Nations E/CN.6/2006/L.2/Rev.1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
9 March 2006

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women
Fiftieth session
27 February-10 March 2006
Agenda item 3
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Botswana:* revised draft resolution

Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration[1] and Platform for Action,[2] the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[3] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[4] the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,[5] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session in 2001, the HIV/AIDS-related goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 2000[6] and the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the aim of Member States to have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS,

Recalling the commitment from the 2005 World Summit of developing and implementing a package for HIV prevention treatment and care with the aim of coming as close as possible to the goal of universal access to treatment by 2010, for all those who need it,

Also recalling all previous resolutions on this subject,

---

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Southern African Development Community.

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publications, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[4] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.

[6] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

06-26643 (E) 090306

Acknowledging that prevention, care, support and treatment for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS are mutually reinforcing elements of an effective response that must be integrated into a comprehensive approach to combat the epidemic,

Recognizing that populations destabilized by armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, including refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children, are at an increased risk of exposure to HIV infection,

Deeply concerned that the global HIV/AIDS pandemic disproportionately affects women and girls and that the majority of new HIV infections occur among young people,

Concerned that the vulnerability of women, girls and adolescents to HIV/AIDS is increased by their unequal legal, economic and social status as well as other cultural and physiological factors, violence against women and girls and adolescents, early marriage, forced marriage, cross generational sex, transactional sex and female genital mutilation,

Also concerned that HIV infection rates are at least twice as high among young people, especially young and married women, who do not finish primary school as those who do,

Further concerned that women and girls have different and unequal access to the use of health resources for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS,

1. *Stresses with deep concern* that the HIV/AIDS pandemic, with its devastating scale and impact on women and girls, requires urgent action in all fields and at all levels;

2. *Also stresses* that gender equality and the political, social and economic empowerment of women and girls are fundamental elements in the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, and are essential to reversing the pandemic;

3. *Expresses its concern* that the HIV/AIDS pandemic reinforces gender inequalities, that women and girls bear a disproportionate share of the burden imposed by the HIV/AIDS crisis, that they are more easily infected, that they bear the disproportionate burden to care for and support those infected and affected by the disease and that they become more vulnerable to poverty as a result of the HIV/AIDS crisis;

4. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments, supported by the relevant actors, including civil society, to intensify national efforts and international cooperation in the implementation of the commitments contained in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,[4] the Beijing Platform for Action[2] and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[4] and to work towards effectively reflecting in their national policies, strategies and budgets the gender dimension of the pandemic, in line with the time-bound goals of the Declaration and the Platform for Action;

5. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to achieve universal access to reproductive healthcare by 2015, as set out in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, integrating this goal into strategies to attain internationally agreed development goals, including those

contained in the Millennium Declaration[5] aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality, combating HIV/AIDS and eradicating poverty;

6. *Urges* Governments to take all necessary measures to create an enabling environment for the empowerment of women and to strengthen their economic independence and to protect and promote their full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection;

7. *Urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the challenges faced by older women caring for people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS, including orphaned grandchildren;

8. *Emphasizes* the need to strengthen policy and programme linkages and coordination between HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health and their inclusion in national development plans, including poverty reduction strategies and sector-wide approaches where they exist, as a necessary strategy for fighting the HIV/AIDS pandemic and mitigating its impact on the population, which could result in more relevant and cost-effective interventions with greater impact;

9. *Urges* Governments to strengthen initiatives that would increase the capacities of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and health services, including sexual and reproductive health, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, that integrate HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care and include voluntary counselling and testing and through prevention education that promotes gender equality within a culturally and gender-sensitive framework;

10. *Also urges* Governments to ensure accessible and affordable procurement of prevention commodities, in particular microbicides and male and female condoms, to ensure that their supply is adequate and secure, and that they are available to all those who need them;

11. *Further urges* Governments, where they have not yet done so, to institute and ensure the enforcement of laws to protect women and girls from early and forced marriage and marital rape;

12. *Urges* Governments to expand access to treatment, in a progressive and sustainable manner, including the prevention and treatment of opportunistic diseases and effective use of antiretroviral medication and to promote access to low-cost effective drugs and related pharmaceutical products, in particular for women and girls;

13. *Also urges* Governments to ensure that women and girls have equitable and sustained access to treatment for HIV/AIDS and opportunistic infections, appropriate to their age, health and nutritional status, with the full protection of their human rights, including their reproductive rights and sexual health, and to protection from coerced sexual activity, and to monitor access to treatment by age, sex, marital status and continuity of care;

14. *Requests* Governments to ensure the provision of universal and equal access for women and men throughout their life cycle to social services related to health care, including education, clean water and safe sanitation, nutrition, food

security and health education programmes, especially for women and girls living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, including treatment for opportunistic diseases;

15. *Calls upon* Governments to intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls in relation to HIV/AIDS, including through challenging gender stereotypes, stigmatization, discriminatory attitudes and gender inequalities and to encourage the active involvement of men and boys in this regard;

16. *Urges* Governments to strengthen legal, policy, administrative and other measures for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful traditional and customary practices, abuse, early and forced marriage, rape, including marital rape, and other forms of sexual violence, battering and trafficking in women and girls, and to ensure that violence against women is addressed as an integral part of the national HIV/AIDS response;

17. *Stresses* that women should be empowered to protect themselves against violence and, in this regard, also stresses that women have the right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including their sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence;

18. *Calls upon* all Governments and the international donor community to integrate a gender perspective in all matters of international assistance and cooperation and to take measures to ensure that resources concomitant with the impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls are made available, in particular in funding provided to national HIV/AIDS programmes to promote and protect the human rights of women and girls in the context of the epidemic, and to achieve the gender-related goals found, inter alia, in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;

19. *Calls upon* Governments to integrate HIV prevention interventions, including voluntary counselling and testing of HIV, into other health services including sexual and reproductive health, family planning, maternity and tuberculosis services, as well as the provision of services for the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections in the maternal to child transmission services for HIV infected pregnant women;

20. *Encourages* the continued collaboration among the cosponsors of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and other international organizations, to address and reduce the spread of sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, in particular in the context of emergency situations and as part of humanitarian efforts, and to seek actively the achievement of results for women and girls, and encourages the mainstreaming of a gender perspective throughout their work;

21. *Requests* the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its cosponsors, other United Nations agencies responding to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, as well as the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to integrate a gender and human rights perspective throughout their HIV/AIDS related operations, including policy, planning, monitoring and evaluation, and to ensure that programmes and policies are developed and are adequately resourced to address the specific needs of women and girls;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in a follow up to his December 2005 letter to the United Nations Resident Coordinators on the establishment of joint United Nations teams on AIDS at the country level, to direct the United Nations Development Programme, as lead agency on technical support on gender and human rights within the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, to develop the HIV-related gender and human rights capacity for all United Nations staff providing technical assistance to Governments, to advance the national response to AIDS and to report on these efforts in 2008;

23. *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to support national monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in the context of the "three ones", to enable the production and dissemination of comprehensive and timely information on the gender dimension of the pandemic, including through the collection of data, disaggregated by sex, age and marital status, and in raising awareness about the critical intersection between gender inequality and HIV/AIDS;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite Member States to work in partnership with the Global Coalition on Women and HIV/AIDS, convened by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its partners, to mobilize and support a wide range of national actors, including women's groups and networks of women living with HIV/AIDS, to ensure that national HIV/AIDS programmes are better able to respond to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women and girls;

25. *Encourages* the United Nations system in its ongoing work in providing widespread information on the gender dimension of the pandemic, including through the collection of sex disaggregated data, and in raising awareness about the critical intersection between gender equality and HIV/AIDS;

26. *Requests* Member States to work in partnership with the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, convened by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its partners, to ensure that the national HIV/AIDS programmes are better able to respond to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women and girls;

27. *Urges* Governments to rapidly scale up access to treatment programmes to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV and to encourage men to participate with women in programmes designed to prevent mother-to-child transmission, to encourage women and girls to participate in these programmes and to provide sustained treatment and care after pregnancy;

28. *Encourages* the design and implementation of programmes to encourage and enable men, and young men, to adopt safe non-coercive and responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour and to use effective methods to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS;

29. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring that young men and women have access to information and education, including peer education, and youth-specific HIV education, sexual education and services necessary to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection and reproductive ill health, in full partnership with young persons, parents, families, educators and health-care providers;

30. *Calls* for enhanced efforts by all relevant actors to include a gender perspective in the development of HIV/AIDS programmes and policies and in the

training of personnel involved in implementing such programmes, including through focusing on the role of men and boys in addressing HIV/AIDS;

31. *Urges* Governments to combat stigmatization and continue to promote the participation and the significant contribution of people living with HIV/AIDS, young people and civil-society actors in addressing the problem of HIV/AIDS in all its aspects, including promoting a gender perspective, and also to promote their full involvement and participation in the design, planning, implementation and evaluation of HIV/AIDS programmes;

32. *Welcomes* the financial contributions made to date to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, urges further contributions to sustain the Fund, and calls upon all countries to encourage the private sector to contribute to the Fund;

33. *Calls upon* Governments to take measures to ensure that the necessary resources are provided for the global response to address HIV/AIDS, including to address specifically the needs of women and girls, through national budgets and the support of the international community, in line with the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;

34. *Invites* the Secretary-General to consider feminization and the gender dimensions of the epidemic when preparing the report requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/224 of 23 December 2005 and in making all preparations for and organization of the 2006 follow-up meeting on the outcome of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;

35. *Recommends* that the 2006 follow-up meeting on the outcome of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS take measures to ensure the inclusion of gender-equality perspectives throughout its deliberations and that it pays attention to the situation of women and girls infected and affected by HIV/AIDS;

36. *Decides* to consider this question further at its fifty-first session.